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BLACK ARCHIVES OF MID-AMERICA
PUBLIC HEARING

Thursday, September 7, 2006
6:00 p.m.

Gregg/Klice Community Center
1600 East 17th Street
Kansas City, Missouri

- - -

Appearances:

- Mr. Jay Nixon, Missouri Attorney General
- Mr. Douglas E. Nelson, Deputy Chief of Staff
- Ms. Linda Manlove, Assistant Attorney General
- Mr. Trey Hanna, Assistant Attorney General
- Mr. Mark McHenry, Kansas City Parks & Recreation
- Mr. Gary Kremer, Executive Director,
State Historical Society of Missouri

1 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: Good evening.
2 Thanks for everyone for coming this evening. Let me
3 introduce who is with me here. To my left,
4 Assistant Attorney General from my Kansas City
5 office Linda Manlove. Also from the attorney
6 general staff we have Doug Nelson and Trey Hanna,
7 James Klahr, Linda Manlove. As most of you may have
8 a key to this, my name is Missouri Attorney General
9 Jay Nixon.

10 I want to welcome you to the second public
11 meeting on the future of the Black Archives of
12 Mid-America. I also want to thank everyone here, as
13 well as the folks that came to the meeting over at
14 the gym, for their continued significant interest.

15 Three weeks ago we heard from dozens of
16 community leaders, historians and citizens, all of
17 whom shared a sincere concern that historic
18 artifacts and documents contained in the Black
19 Archives be properly preserved and maintained. I
20 have been heartened by both the outpouring, the
21 passion and the commitment of the community to save
22 the Black Archives and keep the vision of Horace
23 Peterson. My office's involvement with the Black
24 Archives goes back almost a year when we first
25 learned of the problems the archives board was

1 having in staying in good standing with the
2 Secretary of State's office.

3 Our involvement has been in the role of
4 steward for the State's non-profit assets. And the
5 Black Archives has had a standing as a non-profit
6 corporation. It was dissolved earlier this year by
7 the Secretary of State. And while the Black
8 Archives has had its standing as a non-profit
9 reinstated, that relieves only one of the challenges
10 to be addressed. There are still very serious
11 governance issues that must be dealt with. It is my
12 hope that these challenges can be met without the
13 need for me to use the litigation tools I have at my
14 disposal under Missouri law. I much, much prefer
15 that those tools stay in the tool shed. I am
16 confident that if we all handle our responsibilities
17 responsibly, it will.

18 I want to be able to meet those challenges
19 by agreement. I know this will present some
20 obstacles and perhaps some frustration. It will not
21 be an easy process, but we need to get there, we
22 need to get there quickly. Tonight we want to take
23 the high level energy and support demonstrated at
24 the August 17th public hearing and focus on how the
25 Black Archives can move forward with a Board of

1 Directors that the community will look to for
2 leadership and be confident in investing its
3 resources in.

4 To help reach that goal, Barbara Peterson
5 has graciously offered to lead an advisory committee
6 to determine the future leadership of the archives.
7 I want to thank Ms. Peterson for her willingness to
8 serve in this, what can be a nerve-racking part of
9 the process. We'll have more to say about that in a
10 little while. As we start out today, a couple of
11 things we want to get done first.

12 Two weeks ago I had the opportunity to
13 visit the current site of the Black Archives. While
14 I had seen a listing of the items contained there,
15 the significance of this collection was really
16 impressed upon me by seeing those things in person.
17 And I thank Mr. Arnold and the others for their
18 great hospitality in welcoming me there. It also
19 impressed on me the need to move very quickly to
20 ensure that the archives is located in a setting to
21 keep those items adequately preserved.

22 One of the primary concerns in preserving
23 the Black Archives as a collection of historic
24 artifacts and documents, is ensuring that it has an
25 appropriate and adequate site as a home. So our

1 first presentation tonight will be from Mark
2 McHenry, the director of the Kansas City Parks and
3 Recreation Department. Mr. McHenry will speak about
4 the potential use of a department building as the
5 new site for the archives, and commitment to the
6 City on this issue. We think it is very important.
7 We will then have a presentation from the Historical
8 Society about some other issues. But I think there
9 was obviously some relatively significant talk and
10 discussion at the last setting about the Parks and
11 Recreation. And we thought in an open public forum
12 as this, walking through this part of the process
13 with Mr. McHenry is very, very important and
14 useful. Please help me in welcoming Mark McHenry.

15 MR. MCHENRY: Thank you very much, Mr.
16 Nixon. Welcome to the Gregg/Klice Community
17 Center. This is one of the several community
18 centers in this city that is owned and operated by
19 the Kansas City, Missouri Board of Parks and
20 Recreation commissioners. I do work for the Kansas
21 City, Missouri Park Board. Hopefully some members
22 of that board will join us this evening. I know
23 Commissioner Bill Washington has been very
24 instrumental in this project and looks forward to
25 the future of the Black Archives organization.

1 Furthermore, we are in the parade, the
2 parade is a unique part of our park and boulevard
3 system. The parade has been in our park and
4 boulevard system for over 100 years. And the
5 parade, of course, is this tract of land we are
6 sitting on tonight, here at the community center,
7 and we go on up to Truman Road and on over to the
8 Paseo on the west, and then back over to Woodland on
9 the east. Of course there is a ball diamond here
10 and tennis courts and a very important part of our
11 park and boulevard system.

12 Prior to this Gregg/Klice Community Center
13 we had a great community center at this location.
14 That building served its useful life. It was
15 demolished and replaced by this building, and we
16 have been here about 10 years now, at the
17 Gregg/Klice Community Center, and obviously a very
18 active part of the community.

19 The future home for the Black Archives is
20 the building that is just due east of here. It is
21 located of course over here on the corner of 17th
22 Terrace or Buck O'Neal Way, as we have named that
23 obviously in honoring Mr. Buck O'Neal. And of
24 course at the corner of Woodland. The building was
25 first built in 1912, and that was actually the west

1 wing of the south wing that was built in 1912. And
2 then about four years later in 1916 the north wing
3 was built, and that is the one that runs parallel to
4 Woodland.

5 The building was built through the efforts
6 of the Park Department. A gentleman by the name of
7 Arthur Sparks was the architect of the building. It
8 was actually the first architect that was hired from
9 outside the parks system back in the year 1912. He
10 designed the building, and then it was built by a
11 local contractor at that particular time. The total
12 cost of that building with both wings, both the
13 southwest wing and the north wing was \$34,000 to
14 build the entire building. And to put that in
15 perspective, we are talking about a renovation now
16 that is 100 times that amount of money. Anyway,
17 34,000 obviously went a lot further in 1912 and
18 1916.

19 Another little bit of history, is that
20 building is built out of Missouri native limestone.
21 Who in the room here knows where Spring Valley Park
22 is at? Okay. Very good. That's where the stone
23 came from. It was quarried out of Spring Valley
24 Park and transported and built this building here in
25 that time frame. We occupied that building back in

1 the 1912, 1916 time frame as a park maintenance
2 facility. We had our crews working out of that
3 location. We had our equipment stored there. We
4 had our carpentry shop. We had our motorized
5 equipment. And basically just maintained and
6 serviced parts out of that location. And that went
7 on up until 1997 when we were able to move into a
8 larger, more modern facility over in the northeast
9 area back off of 435 and Front Street. Then the
10 building became vacant at that time.

11 Then back in about 2002, I believe it was,
12 the Full Employment Council expressed interest in
13 that building. Their main offices are over here on
14 the other side of Paseo. So they secured some funds
15 and were able to renovate at least a part of that
16 southwest wing. And they have been there -- now
17 they have actually relocated back to their main
18 offices while we go through this renovation process,
19 but they will eventually come back and occupy this
20 building.

21 The total building is about 20,000 square
22 feet. That is 10,000 square feet on each level. Of
23 course it is a two-story building, so we have an
24 upper level and a lower level. And that's how the
25 building has been functioning in the past.

1 I do want to introduce some members of our
2 staff and some of the architectural team that are
3 here tonight. Mark Bowland is here, he is our
4 regional manager. Somewhere in the room. I do want
5 to introduce Richard Coleman, who is the chief
6 architect for Parks and Recreation. He has been
7 working on this project now for several years. And
8 fortunately we were able to hire a firm by the name
9 of Group One Architects owned and operated by Don
10 Gardner back in the late 1990's. Since that time
11 Don has sold his firm to a national firm by the name
12 of Moody Noland. Now he works at Moody Noland. Don
13 is here tonight. Don, if you can wave. He is the
14 chief designer for the project. And then Albert
15 Ray, who is a member of his team, is also with us
16 tonight.

17 We brought some boards here and we have
18 put them in the back. I hope you have had a chance
19 to kind of glance at those. You are free to look at
20 them as you go through the evening and look at them
21 again. Of course we can stand for questions. We
22 have two elevations back there, one is the east and
23 the west elevation. Actually four elevations. Then
24 we have north and south elevation, as you would look
25 at the building from this direction. Then we also

1 have the two little floor plans. That shows on
2 those two boards. The burnt orange color that is on
3 that, both the first floor and second floor would be
4 the future home for the Black Archives. The blue is
5 the Full Employment Council space. And then there
6 is also some space there for the Buffalo Soldiers.
7 And one of those gentlemen just entered the room for
8 us, with the Buffalo Soldiers organization. Of
9 course there is some common space which is for
10 elevators and storage and things of that nature.
11 And that's kind of how it all fits together.

12 We think we have done a good job of this,
13 with some good architectural team. We have had good
14 consultants involved, as far as how to build
15 adequate space from a moisture condition control,
16 and obviously use of the future archival space.

17 A big part of this project, of course,
18 that we need to move on pretty quick and we wanted
19 to, is to get this building back in shape. As you
20 can imagine, the building has been vacant for
21 several years. It is going to deteriorate on you.
22 There is going to be moisture penetration into the
23 building. The plumbing, the electrical, mechanical,
24 all those things are going to deteriorate over time,
25 and obviously you have to restore that kind of

1 property. Make sure you get the building up to
2 modern codes, and that's where it is important to
3 move forward.

4 I know it was talked about at the hearing
5 at the Gem Theatre on the 17th about dollars. There
6 is dollars for this project. I kind of tilted my
7 hand on the number earlier when I said 34,000, you
8 take it times 100 you are at \$3.5 million. That
9 \$3.5 million has been made available through the
10 efforts of the City Council. Sandra
11 McFadden-Weaver and other members of the City
12 Council. Councilman Brooks has entered the room
13 also. They have made that money available over a
14 period of a few years and those dollars have
15 accumulated now. So we have money. We were ready
16 to go out for bid and receive contractors' bids.
17 And that money then can be used on this building to
18 take care of all the necessary things I have talked
19 about, to make it a usable, viable building again.
20 Move the Full Employment Council back into it. And
21 then of course move forward as far as the space for
22 the Black Archives. That's kind of where I am. Mr.
23 Nixon?

24 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: Any questions?
25 He will take questions. Does anyone have any

1 questions?

2 MR. MCHENRY: I'll answer questions or I
3 will direct them to one of the architects.

4 MR. TOONS: My name is Mike Toons, I am
5 with Storytellers Incorporated. And we do
6 educational programming for the Kansas City,
7 Missouri, Kansas City, Kansas School Districts, as
8 well as Juvenile Justice. One of the things that I
9 would like to just make a matter of public record.
10 I'm sure this has been discussed somewhere along the
11 line. I really am glad to see all the good work
12 that is being done to bring this thing forward.

13 I would like to make it a matter of record
14 that we consider investing some funds in developing
15 some outreach educational programming that becomes a
16 bridge between the community and this facility to
17 make sure that understanding of the rich history and
18 culture that is offered in Kansas City is made
19 apparent by visitors who come here, so that they
20 understand the importance of a facility like the one
21 that we are trying to install. As well as some of
22 the other things that we have in the city that
23 people aren't able to really quite get their brains
24 around.

25 I think part of the reason we are having a

1 difficult time getting the support we need for a lot
2 of the institutions, is because of the lack of
3 understanding of how important they are to our
4 future, as well as what they contributed in our
5 past. So I hope that somehow in the process of
6 finding these funds and developing the
7 infrastructures in these areas, that we incorporate
8 into that some kind of funds to put together some
9 kind of strong educational program that helps
10 peoples understand the importance of this stuff, and
11 that it is not just things to look at, but it has a
12 purpose in the development of our communities and
13 our societies and our city.

14 MR. WILLIAMS: I just have a question. I
15 am Archie Williams. I just wanted to ask if there
16 has been a timeline established for having this
17 completed.

18 MR. MCHENRY: We'll let Mr. Coleman answer
19 that question for you.

20 MR. COLEMAN: The construction drawings
21 and documents are completed and -- the construction
22 documents have been completed. We're ready to
23 advertise the project and to take bids on it. That
24 will take about a month. Then we will go into
25 contracts with the selected contractor. In the

1 short, we should be able to have the project ready
2 by the end of 2007, early 2008. So a little over a
3 year and it will be ready to move in to.

4 MR. KAREEM: I am Marad Kareem. In the
5 construction, will the women and the minorities be
6 guaranteed their portion of the city contract?

7 MR. MCHENRY: The way we handle that in
8 construction projects in the city, is that we have a
9 Fairness In Construction Board that is appointed by
10 the Mayor. And they review all construction
11 projects. They would set a goal for both minority
12 participation and women participation. And they are
13 pretty -- they do a good job of that. They set
14 pretty high goals. So a percentage would be set.
15 Normally the process they look at is, they look at
16 the project, they look at the different scopes
17 involved, how much electrical, how much plumbing,
18 how much structural and set those goals. And we
19 feel strongly those goals need to be looked toward
20 as far as what is established. But the Fairness In
21 Construction Board sets those goals. So the answer
22 is yes.

23 MR. ARNOLD: I would like to make a
24 statement if I could. It is not a question at all.
25 Again Mr. Nixon, my name is Anthony Arnold for the

1 record. I am so enthused with this process. I
2 can't tell you how we labored so much in the dark by
3 ourselves with no outside support to make this
4 happen. And I want to make just a few, make a few
5 observations and a few statements if I could.

6 Most of you people in the room really
7 don't know the whole story about what is happening
8 at the Black Archives. And as it has been confirmed
9 to this date, there has been no mismanagement of
10 funds, because there has been no funding, okay. The
11 funding was gone. Okay. So the people who were in
12 charge at that time did the best they could do with
13 nothing. They spent their own money and they spent
14 their own time.

15 Now, I think that with the public's
16 awareness now of the situation, with the public's
17 awareness now of what we are trying to do with the
18 new facility, the interest has been built by this
19 public body of Kansas Citians to help this cause
20 alone. But I do feel like we are putting the cart
21 before the horse a bit.

22 I am so encouraged about all of the
23 outside participation to help bring the archives
24 back into what it should be, to be in compliance
25 with the State of Missouri, and to make any future

1 funding source feel like now this feels like a
2 worthy situation for me to get involved in. But we
3 have responsibility, and I hope it doesn't become
4 legal, to just deal with finances to secure the
5 artifacts that we presently have. I don't feel
6 personally, and we spent an hour or so today with
7 people from Jefferson City who have a background in
8 artifacts and so forth. And I don't know all the
9 terms, I am just a board member.

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: An archivist.

11 MR. ARNOLD: An archivist. Thank you very
12 much. So we did that. And there were concerns
13 expressed about whether these documents should be
14 taken from here and going to there. I think
15 personally, and I really -- I am just a little
16 saddened that people who have spent a lot of time in
17 this thing were not really fully consulted to say,
18 well, what do you think we should do next? What we
19 should do next is to make sure, what the City is
20 trying to do now, is put us a dehu -- did I say that
21 right? Dehumidifier in there. And someone stole
22 the air conditioner that I mentioned to you all at
23 the last meeting. That is in the process of being
24 replaced.

25 Those documents -- the building is

1 closed. Should remain closed. Those documents will
2 be secure in that facility. That is a solid brick
3 building, just like the one we have here that we are
4 moving to. So those documents can remain there
5 until we are prepared from a construction point of
6 view to make a transition to the new facility.

7 Now, the advisory committee, I am so
8 supportive of that. But I don't believe in
9 reinventing the wheel when we have been meeting,
10 with the help of Bill Washington, Parks and Rec, the
11 library system and others from City Hall and et
12 cetera, we have been meeting. We need to continue.
13 There is no need to start from ground zero to build
14 us up to where we are. The people who are
15 interested, we should combine that and work together
16 to carry it further. Time is of the essence, one
17 with the artifacts, and two with the process of
18 construction that we are planning now. And I think
19 that we need to just continue that. There is -- I
20 think the paper said that maybe the archives could
21 resist this. There is no resistance. It is not a
22 point of trying to get to anything legal. We don't
23 feel any of that is necessary. We encourage and
24 support the outside commitment and participation of
25 other people. It is time.

1 The archives building, for you who have
2 been in that building, you know that is a 5,000
3 square foot building. It has a thousand square feet
4 of it for office space. It has another thousand
5 square feet for janitorial and stuff where we have
6 had classes for our adjudicated children. It has
7 very little space to be called a so-called museum.
8 It was never intended to be a museum when Horace
9 founded it. It was a place where you could come and
10 get the information about things you needed to know
11 about from your history. Then we started setting up
12 exhibits. And the 1100 square feet that we have,
13 that is not a museum.

14 So it is growing from where it was, where
15 it was, to something that will be a showcase to our
16 community. A 20,000 square foot building where
17 these artifacts can be not only done from a
18 historical point of view, but they can also be
19 displayed for the general public to see with the
20 addition of documents and et cetera that we hope to
21 attract in the future. So we are there. We are
22 there.

23 The problem is, that the staff -- people
24 who were talking about these forms and stuff that
25 weren't done. You know why they weren't? Because

1 other additional questions for Mr. McHenry and his
2 portion of the presentation here? If we could.

3 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I wanted to ask a quick
4 question in reference to the space. You mentioned
5 that it would be the Black Archives, the F.E.C. and
6 the Buffalo Soldiers. How much space will the
7 archives get as a part of that whole building?

8 MR. MCHENRY: It is about half the
9 building would be Black Archives.

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you.

11 MR. TOLBERT: My name is Richard Tolbert.
12 I am a 14th Ward Committeeman. I have a follow-up
13 comment to the question raised by Kareem, in terms
14 of minority participation in the renovation work on
15 the new facility.

16 In the past, minority participation has
17 been measured by minority firms. And we have often
18 found that even with minority firms, there are
19 actually no black people working on any of these
20 projects. This committee that you referred to, I
21 think out of the mayor's office, will you urge them
22 to consider the work force. In other words, the
23 portional representation in the actual jobs in
24 achieving minority representation goals. Thank you.

25 MR. MCHENRY: Most definitely will. I

1 also will pass that on and encourage that to City
2 Manager Wayne Cauthen too.

3 MS. SAUNDRA MCFADDEN-WEAVER: I would like
4 to add to that.

5 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: It is nice to see
6 you after a nice rest.

7 MS. SAUNDRA MCFADDEN-WEAVER: Good
8 evening. Thank you all again for the opportunity
9 and for being here. As it pertains to that, please
10 understand that this particular project will fall
11 under the amended or new affirmative action
12 program. Those numbers will be demographic
13 sensitive to the area and it will be policed.
14 Unlike the affirmative action program that we had
15 before, as the city set its goals, was not
16 demographic certain. So an M.B.E. or a W.B.E. was
17 of every culture.

18 What we are endeavoring to do now is
19 utilize language that is more prudent to
20 representing the demographics of the area. And that
21 is one of the purposes for the study that is being
22 done now, the numbers that are coming out soon, and
23 the amendments to that particular legislation. So
24 in gist, the answer to the question that you asked
25 is, absolutely yes. And more prudently, or more

1 specifically, the site construction and things of
2 that nature, because of the new language, would have
3 to be more demographic sensitive than what you have
4 seen projects being in the past.

5 MR. COOPER: Good evening. My name is
6 Emanuel Cooper, and I am with the organization
7 Euphrates Gallery Incorporated and the Association
8 for the Study of African American Life and History,
9 the Lorenzo J. Greene branch. I am president of
10 that organization.

11 This evening I would like to thank you,
12 Attorney General Jay Nixon, for the opportunity to
13 speak. I would like to recognize all our leaders in
14 our community. McFadden-Weaver, thank you very
15 much. Representative Brooks, thank you.

16 One of the things that I would like to do
17 is, Euphrates ASALH has been invited to engage in
18 the dialogue or discussion relating to the
19 disposition of the Black Archives of Mid-America by
20 the community. Many of our members are here this
21 afternoon, and many of our colleagues are here as
22 well. And if you are here, I would like for to you
23 stand up and be recognized. We have Dr. Beasley,
24 who is the leading co-founder of the organization,
25 of this branch is with us this evening. We have

1 Jimmy Johnson -- Dr. Jimmy Johnson, who is an
2 anthropologist, a long time advocate of local
3 history in our community. We have Lieutenant Blye,
4 who has probably 80 percent of the collection at the
5 archives is owned by him. He has donated it to the
6 institution.

7 Our interest this evening is really
8 related to the collection, the current condition of
9 the collection. We are interested in making sure
10 the collection is secure and safe, but more
11 importantly the condition in which it is currently
12 being stored. We are very concerned about that in
13 terms of best practice as it relates to museum and
14 archival practice. They are two different animals.
15 They are not the same. And oftentimes we in our
16 mind we just gang them altogether. But they are two
17 different practices. We would like to extend our
18 services. We have professionals in the archivists
19 area. We have professionals in the history research
20 area. We want to extend our services to this
21 endeavor to make sure that that collection is safe,
22 secured, cataloged, confirmed and assessed. I
23 understand it has been cataloged. It needs to be
24 confirmed. We are talking about confirmation of the
25 collection.

1 Now, you may ask yourself, Well, who is
2 Emanuel Cooper? Well, I have been a curator at the
3 Museum of African American History in Detroit years
4 ago, which is the largest institution of its kind in
5 the nation, and they claimed at the time when I was
6 the curator, in the world. I am also the co-founder
7 of Euphrates Gallery Incorporated, which is
8 celebrating its 22nd year of cross-cultural
9 cross-disciplined content development. Our primary
10 focus is on the development of audience. That is
11 the invisible audience that normally historically
12 has been ignored, which we are talking about in
13 reference to this project.

14 Also I am president of the Association for
15 the Study of African American Life and History,
16 Lorenzo J. Greene branch. As you may be aware of
17 the fact that Carter G. Woodson was the founder of
18 that organization, co-founder of that organization,
19 and he established what we celebrate now as African
20 American History Month.

21 Now, the local branch was founded by Dr.
22 Beasley. And I am going to put you on the spot, Dr.
23 Beasley. I am going to ask you to talk briefly
24 about the history of that organization as it relates
25 to the Black Archives.

1 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: No, no, no.

2 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: I get the
3 general sense that they are not supportive of that.

4 MR. COOPER: I got that sense too.

5 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: If we could move
6 to whatever questions we have for Mr. McHenry on
7 this part of the process. While it appears
8 sometimes I am not overly organized, we are trying
9 to move through a process here that goes to the
10 building first and then hear from another historian
11 on some issues involving the archives themselves.
12 We have time. Fire away.

13 MS. DELMIRA QUARLES KAMEHAMEHA: Good
14 afternoon. My name is Delmira Quarles Kamehameha.
15 I am with NAHRA, the National Association for Human
16 Rights in America. I have two quick questions,
17 sir. I would like to know first of all, the Black
18 Archives, is that going to be the full title of the
19 museum that you are confirming or going to build?
20 That is one. I hope that is not -- I hope I am not
21 behind in the times, but there are other things that
22 the museum could be called besides just the Black
23 Archives.

24 Two is, I would like to know, because I
25 have never met the people that were on the advisory

1 committee. I guess the community never knows or has
2 heard of, or at least I haven't, I have never met
3 them, how they were appointed, who they are, what
4 their background is. And also, I think it is
5 important for the community to know. We have never
6 met the people. And how this advisory was
7 appointed. Was it appointed by the community? I am
8 very interested and concerned, because I think the
9 gentleman before me said that we are working
10 together as a community. Does anyone know about
11 when the meetings that you have at libraries and
12 this sort of thing? Is that in the paper? Does the
13 community know about these meetings? Can the
14 community come? Et cetera, et cetera. I think
15 everybody is in the dark at these things, and I just
16 thought I would ask those questions.

17 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: I will take both
18 of those really quickly, then we will move on to
19 other questions you have for Mr. McHenry. Otherwise
20 I will lend him my law license.

21 I have been involved in this matter in any
22 sort of significant public way for a relatively
23 short period of time. And everything that we have
24 done through the Attorney General's Office has been
25 stunningly public and equally obviously seen. Each

1 of the meetings we have had have been public. Each
2 of the meetings we have in the future will be
3 public. The public is allowed to come. We will
4 take comments. This is going to be a process that
5 is not -- it is not a process where we need to have
6 any secret meetings about anything. And this
7 community needs to be together. And so, I think
8 that as it is currently set up right now, the Board
9 under the bylaws of the not-for-profit corporation
10 has founded, has the ability to have a fully
11 constituted board of 15 people. Currently under
12 some, depending on how you legally analyze it, most
13 would say there are three current members of it
14 right now.

15 So moving in a process here, over the next
16 few weeks and months to make sure that that board
17 becomes fully constituted, reflects this community,
18 and allows me to head back to some other law
19 business I have, is better off. I want to be the
20 bumpers on the side of this and then get on the exit
21 ramp and let this community do that. So we are
22 trying to marshal a process here in which people
23 appreciate and understand what the value of this
24 asset is, as well as the process we are going
25 through to make sure that this community has control

1 over it and has an ability to move in the future.

2 So as we move toward specific goals, when
3 we talk about this, I mean getting that board fully
4 constituted, fully empowered and moving forward over
5 the next few weeks and months I think is a primary
6 goal. We will be open and obvious about what we are
7 doing so as to not make any mistakes. And the
8 mistakes we do make we will make very much in
9 public, so that those that want to express their
10 concern will have the opportunity to do so. Any
11 other questions for the Parks Department? Yes,
12 sir.

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm not quite sure that
14 my question is going to be directed to the right
15 parties. Where would a lay person, such as myself,
16 gain the proper information so that it could be and
17 could be of a vital assistance to the endeavor
18 here? Because I am a lay person to it. I don't
19 quite understand how things are going, if you will.
20 Is there a central point, place, organization where
21 I may be able to pick up written documents or
22 written directions, proposals, plans and
23 objectives?

24 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: At this point
25 right now, the first part of this presentation deals

1 with the physical plant. That is what the physical
2 plant will be with the commitments that have been
3 made for the future from the City. Thanks to the
4 fine work of the City Councilmen, Councilwomen and
5 other representatives in this area as well as the
6 Parks Department. Once we get through that process,
7 then we're going to have a presentation by the State
8 Historical Society, Executive Director, President,
9 whatever his current title is, Grand Poobah, Gary
10 Kremer, an esteemed historian, about some of the
11 archival issues. Then we're going to start talking
12 a little bit about the governance issues.

13 As far as the facility right now, I think
14 Mr. Arnold was very direct and very specific in the
15 fact that the first and primary goal we have here is
16 to protect what we have there right now. It is not
17 a facility that currently is one that is open and
18 usable in a mass form. And I think that the
19 transition of this to this much more spacious and
20 modern area will do that. But as far as getting --
21 writing things and getting history of that and what
22 can be done, we are still in very much a transition
23 process here and at this particular point that is
24 very difficult to get.

25 MR. KEVIN MORRIS: I think the

1 transcriptions of all of the meetings are online.

2 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: If you want
3 anything from this meeting or anything from any of
4 the records, every testimony has been taken down
5 here. All of my -- thank you very much. Don't you
6 hate it when the audience gives a better answer to
7 the question? Feel free to help me any time you
8 want. This entire process, all of the hearings, all
9 the testimony, all of the records are available on
10 our website. If you don't have access to get it on
11 the website, you can find any one of my assistants
12 here will gladly kill a couple trees and copy stuff
13 and send it to you, so the entirety of this process
14 is open and available to the public as we move
15 through the process.

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Is the website long --
17 or is it too long for you to say what it is now?

18 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: Just do Jay Nixon
19 and you will find me eventually. Moag.gov will get
20 you there.

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I would like to get that
22 information.

23 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: Thank you. If
24 you have any trouble getting it, feel free to pick
25 up the phone and call us and we will have this stuff

1 sent to you. In the far back. Yes, ma'am.

2 MS. SPENCE: I have just something that I
3 wanted to -- I just had something that I wanted to
4 bring up very briefly. As I look at you and any of
5 your kind, you don't look like dollar signs to me.
6 So I don't go the route of --

7 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: This is a new
8 suit.

9 MS. SPENCE: But the only part of your
10 suit that looks like a dollar sign is the tiny
11 American flag. So I want to speak just directly to
12 you, because I don't understand what is taking so
13 long for somebody to roll up their sleeves. There
14 is so much to be done at the archives, starting with
15 the administration part on down to the display of
16 the wonderful things that are packed up in there on
17 the shelves.

18 So my thing is to speak to you like an
19 individual who knows what is going on. You know,
20 and Mr. Kemper probably knows, but I have already
21 found over a million dollars available to
22 organizations like the Black Archives. And I don't
23 know why people are not looking over the Mission
24 Statement of the archives, deciding whether or not
25 it needs updating, moving on down to deciding about

1 going after money, soft money, okay, money we don't
2 have to go around begging for. I am not in a
3 welfare mode. Okay. A lot of people around you
4 are. I am not in a welfare mode.

5 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: I don't feel
6 anybody here is in a welfare mode.

7 MS. SPENCE: No, they are. Trust me.
8 Trust me on this one. You don't know. Trust me on
9 this one. But everything I have ever gotten I had
10 to go get for myself, whether it be welfare,
11 whatever, a paycheck, it didn't matter. I have got
12 over a million dollars in my hand that the Black
13 Archives certainly would qualify for, as much
14 turmoil and dysfunction as it is in.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name is Arvis
16 Clark. I am a former board member of the Black
17 Archives up on the horse. I want to ask Mark, did
18 the City quit funding money for the archives to pay
19 their bills? The park department?

20 MR. MCHENRY: The funding was set up. It
21 was money budgeted through the City Council
22 appropriation or the city budget process
23 appropriation. That money then came through Parks
24 and Recreation, and then was every dollar of that
25 was passed on to the Black Archives. That's how the

1 process worked. Then that was terminated -- it
2 actually started out, I think it was 100,000, then
3 it went down to 75, 35.

4 MR. ARNOLD: 60 to 70 and then 33.

5 MR. MCHENRY: Then it went on down and
6 then of course it dissolved.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: When did it dissolve?

8 MR. MCHENRY: About three years ago I
9 believe is the last time they got money.

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Like I say, I was a
11 former board member. You all were taking care of it
12 while I was there. So I just didn't know that they
13 had stepped out of it.

14 MR. MCHENRY: Also tell the group that
15 Arvis Clark was one of the gentlemen that worked in
16 this building for 30 years over here too.

17 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: One other
18 question for the Parks Department then we will move.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Why can't the dollars
20 be put back in the city budget for the Black
21 Archives? What is the problem there? Why can't it
22 be put back into the budget?

23 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: I think that
24 Mr. McHenry from the Parks Department -- the thing
25 that we asked him to talk about this evening was the

1 facility and what would happen there. I don't know
2 that it is quite fair to have him drilled down as to
3 what the budget items and the choices of the City
4 are. I mean it could. The City can do what they
5 want, but once again, I am hopeful that -- I don't
6 think he is a current candidate for the Board, so he
7 may not have an opportunity. Feel free to answer it
8 if you like.

9 I think it is important to note that the
10 City did have a significant commitment for a number
11 of years. That commitment has dropped. But on the
12 other side of that, for the first time in the City's
13 history, they have appropriated literally millions
14 of dollars here for a very, very significant project
15 to move forward and --

16 MR. MCHENRY: Sandra McFadden-Weaver will
17 answer, member of the City Council.

18 MS. MCFADDEN-WEAVER: Thank you very much
19 for the question. First of all, please understand
20 that through legislation that was passed prior to my
21 election, it was set up that these funds would
22 diminish. Upon my arrival, when I learned that they
23 were diminishing, I then went to try to have it
24 changed. At that time to no avail.

25 However, presently we have in hand the

1 operational funds that have been committed to this
2 project. And those funds will be transferring.
3 Operational funds will be transferring through the
4 American Jazz Museum, with the hopes that the air
5 conditioning will be replaced within one week. Then
6 the dehumidifier as soon as those funds are
7 available.

8 In addition to those operational things,
9 please understand that \$4.1 million of city funds
10 have been set aside, capital improvement dollars, to
11 take care of the renovation and the move into the
12 new building. That will be very, very suitable for
13 the archives. So that is to the tune now of
14 altogether about \$4.3 million of operational cost
15 for the present season. And the capital improvement
16 dollars that will take care of the move and the
17 renovation.

18 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: I wish I could
19 quiet a crowd like that. I guess you stand up and
20 say you have four million dollars and everybody gets
21 quiet.

22 MR. MADISON: Let me introduce myself. I
23 am James Madison, President of the Greater Kansas
24 City Leavenworth Area Chapter of the 10th Horse
25 Calvary Association. That is the organization

1 called Buffalo Soldiers. Since you mention the
2 archives, naturally I am concerned about it, because
3 I am part of it.

4 Now, how it come about being associated
5 with the archives was through -- we had one of our
6 officers of the Buffalo Soldiers there, Mr. Alvin
7 Blye. He was with Mr. Peterson and they had long
8 conversations about different things and how they
9 should present the artifacts to the public and all
10 that. And since Mr. Blye was a member of the
11 organization, he encouraged us to join up with him.
12 And I joined up with him. That was in '93. And I
13 think we had a good association, and we visited all
14 the schools and we had, well, I will say a
15 two-fisted organization of education forums. We
16 would go out to the schools, and the archives would
17 have the kids come there.

18 Well, now I want to know, are you going to
19 set up an administrator for this and start something
20 out there? Or are you just going to keep on talking
21 about it? We can talk to town and talk to now. If
22 you don't act, you got to have something to start
23 out with. And what I would like to know there, do
24 you have anybody in mind or do somebody have to --
25 who is going to be in charge of the thing and

1 everything, about setting it up?

2 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: That is a very
3 good question.

4 MR. MADISON: Good question.

5 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: It is a great
6 question. The community is going to be in charge of
7 it. We are going to try to move through a
8 transition --

9 MR. MADISON: Can anybody answer that
10 question?

11 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: Yes, I can.

12 MR. MADISON: Can?

13 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: I can tell you
14 there is going to be a process. A process that is
15 open. A process that is fair. A process that
16 allows anyone who wants to serve to have the
17 opportunity to serve. And that we will move forward
18 to making sure that the Board is fully constituted
19 with the three members they have now, plus 12
20 additional citizens from this community who are
21 willing to serve, to make sure that this community
22 is prepared to move forward. That Board will be one
23 that will be watched very closely to make sure that
24 they live up to their non-profit purposes. And it
25 will be one that hopefully will get appointed

1 sometime in the next few weeks and months so that it
2 is a board that can move to the next level.

3 MR. MADISON: That sounds good. That
4 answers my question then I guess.

5 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: In the room here
6 tonight we have applications that will be reviewed.
7 Anyone that wants to file an application. Anyone
8 anywhere that wants to. I will not fill one out. I
9 am not going to be on it. Any other comments on the
10 facilities? Yes, ma'am.

11 MS. DEE ASUM: My name is Dee Asum I am a
12 former employee of the Black Archives Warrensburg
13 Society. My question is -- he just spoke about the
14 director. And I have not looked at your floor
15 plans, okay. Regarding what you said, the Black
16 Archives of Mid-America, Full Employment Council and
17 the Buffalo Soldiers will all be under the one
18 entity, right? Will there be a separate director
19 for each entity, or will it be one director?

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: It will be the same
21 building.

22 MS. DEE ASUM: It will be in the same
23 building, but it be the same director or each one
24 individually? It will be one director for all
25 three. Okay. That's what I wanted to get.

1 Next question is, the construction, you
2 spoke about the construction being completed in
3 2007. So evidently everything has been already done
4 in place and approved and authorized, correct?

5 MR. MCHENRY: Ready to go out for bid.
6 Hire a contractor to go to work.

7 MS. DEE ASUM: Who chose that committee
8 and who is on that committee, as far as, other than
9 what Anthony Arnold was saying, as far as the
10 construction and the completion and authorization of
11 the move forward?

12 MR. MCHENRY: The architectural team was
13 selected initially to design the project, as I
14 introduced Mr. Gardner earlier. He was hired by the
15 city to design the building. Then once the plans
16 are complete, then they will be put out in a public
17 bid format for any contractor that might want to bid
18 the job.

19 MS. DEE ASUM: I am going to accept that.
20 The next question, someone had asked you, that was
21 one of my questions, what will be the name? Will
22 the name still be BAMA, Black Archives of
23 Mid-America, or will it be a different name
24 altogether for the complex?

25 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: That is up to the

1 Board.

2 MS. DEE ASUM: Okay. Next question.
3 Regarding an advisory meeting, someone had stated
4 about that. There was a response about the bylaws.
5 Are the bylaws still the original bylaws of Black
6 Archives, or as the state bylaws of a not-for-profit
7 organization? Can you clarify that.

8 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: They are the
9 original bylaws of the not-for-profit as established
10 by Horace and the team that drafted the first
11 document. It may be necessary, because some of
12 changes in the law to review and make changes to
13 those. Our office stands ready, once the Board is
14 fully staffed, to assist them in drafting those,
15 modernizing them in whatever way is possible and
16 helping them get those paperwork in line and filed
17 with the Secretary of State's Office so it will be
18 part of the public record.

19 MS. DEE ASUM: It will be part of the
20 public record?

21 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: I am a stunningly
22 public guy. With that, unless there are any other
23 questions for the Parks Department, I would now like
24 to call forward to us -- first of all we should all
25 thank Mr. McHenry for the work he has done.

1 Finding and completing a location for the
2 Black Archives is only one of the challenges that
3 have to be addressed. Just as important is how to
4 protect these historic and often quite old items and
5 archives from the very real harm that can be caused
6 by things as simple as mold, humidity, water,
7 mishandling and many other factors. To give a
8 presentation to us for short moments on the
9 challenges of preserving historic documents and
10 artifacts, we will next hear from Dr. Gary Kremer,
11 the Executive Director of the State Historical
12 Society of Missouri. Please help me in welcoming
13 our great friend, Gary Kremer.

14 DR. KREMER: Thank you very much, Mr.
15 Nixon. I will try to be very brief. I think you
16 have a right to know why I am interested in this. I
17 am interested in part because I am a historian and
18 the director of the State Historical Society. I am
19 also interested because you wouldn't let Ed Beasley
20 give this spiel, but I am going to do it very
21 briefly.

22 Part of what started the Association for
23 the Study of then called Negro Life and History in
24 1915. In the late 1920's he hired a research
25 assistant named Lorenzo Johnson Greene, for whom

1 your chapter is named. In the 1960's I became
2 Lorenzo Greene's research assistant, and I worked
3 with him for 20 years. He became a surrogate father
4 to me. Part of the training with Lorenzo Greene was
5 to have to listen to Carter Woodson stories. And he
6 used to tell the story, for example, that Carter
7 Woodson never married. He didn't have time. When
8 asked why, he would say, "I have a mistress, her
9 name is history, and she is jealous."

10 These were men who were intensely devoted
11 to a cause that transcended their own personal
12 lives. They believed, as I believe, that the study
13 of African American Life and History is the study of
14 a topic that can only generate good will, can
15 generate pride in African Americans, can generate
16 understanding between people. So it is not a job,
17 it is a passion. It was a passion for them and it
18 ought to be a passion for us, and that's why I am
19 here tonight.

20 The question I was asked to address, and I
21 want to thank Mr. Arnold and Bill Livingston for
22 allowing me to spend some time in the Black Archives
23 this afternoon. I have researched there on multiple
24 occasions. And I must tell you, when I went in
25 today, I found things to be in better shape than I

1 expected, but still troubling.

2 In my mind, very quickly, I can't begin to
3 talk about this without saying -- starting from the
4 very beginning. These are, in my mind, the
5 challenges for a reconstituted board.

6 The first thing that I would encourage the
7 reconstituted board to do, would be to reevaluate
8 the mission statement. Do you really want to be --
9 I am asking this question -- the Black Archives of
10 Mid-America? If so, what constitutes Mid-America?
11 If not -- when Horace started this thing 30 years
12 ago, there were no other repositories. But now
13 there are lots of repositories of African American
14 materials for other areas of Mid-America.

15 In looking at what you have,
16 overwhelmingly it is Kansas City. Now I am not here
17 to tell you certainly what to do. But if I was on
18 the board, the first question I would ask is what do
19 we want to focus on? What do we want to spend our
20 limited time and energy and resources on? Do we
21 really want to collect material -- for example,
22 there are huge collections of black St. Louis
23 materials in St. Louis. There are huge collections
24 of African American materials in other repositories,
25 but not Kansas City. So I would at least suggest

1 that the reconstituted board ask itself this
2 question, Do we want to be, by whatever name you
3 want to call it, the Black Archives of Mid-America,
4 Missouri, Kansas City, the Metropolitan Kansas City
5 area? But define it. And then don't take what
6 isn't in there. If it is not in that narrowly
7 defined collection policy, don't take it. Don't
8 waste your resources on it. Let somebody else do
9 it.

10 I spent, by the way, some time over there
11 and I got really excited because a research project
12 I am working on now is on Dr. William Thompkins, who
13 was the first black superintendent of General Number
14 2. The first box I opened I found correspondence
15 between Dr. Thompkins and Felix Payne, who one of my
16 colleagues who remembers him used to describe him as
17 the guy with the kelly green pants and the
18 chartreuse shirt. Picture that.

19 Here is another more challenging
20 question. And again, I am throwing this out. Do
21 you really want to be a museum as well as an
22 archives? Knowing full well that a museum requires
23 an expertise that an archives doesn't and vice
24 versa. Just a rough kind of calculation for me,
25 appears to me that 20 to 25 percent of what is in

1 that building now is textiles and three dimensional
2 objects. I am not critical of that at all, but I
3 would ask the board to ask itself the question, do
4 we really want to collect that stuff. If we do,
5 recognize that that's a terrifically expensive
6 venture. It is an added venture. For me
7 personally, the stuff that is probably more
8 important from a historian's point of view, are the
9 manuscripts or the paper material. Those are two
10 very critical questions that the board has to
11 address right away. What do we want to collect,
12 what geographical area. And then do we want to
13 collect paper and museum objects? Knowing again
14 that that is very expensive.

15 I don't have much time, but as I walked
16 through three things struck me, and I will try to
17 address them very quickly. The three challenges I
18 would label -- one is probably going to surprise
19 you. Maybe you have not thought about it. I would
20 label them as the problem, the challenge of
21 ownership, environment and usability.

22 There is a serious problem with ownership
23 of this material, because there is very little of
24 what archivists call provenance. Meaning, there is
25 no history of ownership for a lot of this stuff. It

1 may be there. There are files that haven't been
2 examined. I am told by one of the former staff
3 people there, that there really haven't been any
4 records kept on ownership, no paper trail since
5 1993. That is a serious problem from an archival
6 point of view and a copyright and an ownership point
7 of view. Manuscript materials have a much longer
8 copyright life than -- I don't know if I said that
9 right, but you know what I mean. The copyright is
10 much longer than with printed material. So at any
11 point somebody potentially, if there is no
12 paperwork, the Chester Franklin family could come
13 back and say, "We want our stuff back." I think
14 that is an issue that needs to be addressed. You
15 got to try to figure out who owns what. The largest
16 collection, the largest collection, 70 boxes,
17 Hollinger boxes of material isn't owned by the
18 archives. It is on loan. Let me see. I had to
19 make some quick notes at Arthur Bryant's a while
20 ago. I can't remember.

21 Oh, the Alvin Ailey collection, 70
22 Hollinger boxes. There is absolutely no paper trail
23 on that. It is not owned by the Black Archives. It
24 is on loan. That is a serious problem for scholars
25 who want to use that material. There is also some

1 stuff that has been loaned out to places like K.U.
2 There is no paper trail on that. So from an
3 archivist's point of view, one of the first things I
4 would do is to try to establish ownership on every
5 piece of paper in that building. That is critical.

6 The second is the environment. When you
7 walk in, you are just almost stunned by the mildew.
8 There is mold in that building. That stuff can't
9 sit for a year like that. A dehumidifier is not
10 going to take the mold away. Archivists who are
11 trained to do it need to go through and find the
12 materials that are contaminated with mold and
13 separate them out and treat the mold.

14 And again, that is something -- a lot of
15 comments were made in the previous meeting about
16 volunteers. Volunteers are wonderful. Our
17 organization uses them. But this is not -- you
18 don't take your taxes to a volunteer. You don't
19 take your medical problems to a volunteer, and you
20 shouldn't take your history to a volunteer. You
21 need a professional staff. And again, that can't
22 wait until this building is ready. Something has
23 got to happen, that stuff is deteriorating. When we
24 were over there today, the electricity wasn't on.
25 And I understand the problem with that, but the

1 records don't care whether the building gets paid or
2 something. The records are deteriorating. And the
3 deterioration needs to be arrested.

4 The third major challenge is making this
5 material available. To the credit of the previous
6 staff and volunteers, there is a kind of inventory
7 that is essentially a shelf listing of what is
8 there. But there is absolutely no indication of
9 what it means and what the significance of it is. I
10 knew to look for a box that said Felix Payne,
11 because I know who Felix Payne is, and I know what
12 he did and I knew that Thompkins was his associate.
13 But researchers cannot use the material in the way
14 that it is now being presented. This is not an
15 enormous collection. I say that not to denigrate
16 it, but to say that it is manageable. We are
17 talking roughly, roughly, about five or six hundred
18 I think cubic feet of actual materials. That's not
19 an insurmountable amount of material. But taking
20 this material lays an enormous burden of
21 responsibility on the people who assume control of
22 it. And that board has the responsibility to
23 protect that stuff in perpetuity and to make it
24 available to scholars. That is not being done now.
25 I am not here to criticize anyone. I was just asked

1 to say what I thought.

2 And what I am saying to you is, that I
3 would start with the board, and I would rethink the
4 mission statement. I would clarify what you want to
5 do, knowing that you have limited resources. And
6 then I would quickly, quickly address the challenge
7 of finding where the mold is and getting that stuff
8 that is moldy out, getting it treated, and securing
9 the rest of it. It takes more than a dehumidifier
10 and an air conditioner. You need professional
11 expertise to do that. Again, I offer as I offered
12 several weeks ago, to the extent that we are able
13 to, I offer the services of the State Historical
14 Society of Missouri and the Western Manuscript
15 Collection of the University of Missouri. Thanks
16 very much.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Tell them the report
18 that you co-authored with Dr. Greene in your
19 position at Lincoln University.

20 DR. KREMER: I am a graduate of Lincoln
21 University and taught there for 15 years and
22 co-authored a book called Missouri's Black Heritage
23 with Lorenzo Greene. In answer to the question.

24 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: Now we will have
25 questions for Mr. Kremer. Representative Sharon

1 Sanders Brooks.

2 REPRESENTATIVE SHARON SANDERS BROOKS:

3 Good evening. Thank you, Mr. Kremer, for being
4 here. I also want to let the audience know that the
5 U.S. National Archives, the Kansas City area
6 facility has offered space as well to house the
7 items until the new building has been built,
8 because they too are concerned about the
9 environmental aspect of it. And that information
10 should have already been forwarded to the Attorney
11 General's Office regarding that offer that they were
12 going to make. But it is of the utmost importance
13 that we get those items out of the archives and into
14 environmentally protected areas. Thank you.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I would like everyone
16 to know that Dr. Kremer did do the history on what
17 we call Leeds. And we had an exhibit in the rotunda
18 at the capital. And he and his colleague would
19 drive down here sometimes twice a week and meet me
20 for interviews. They did at least 35 interviews of
21 individuals born and reared in Leeds. And we were
22 featured in an issue of the Historical Society of
23 the State of Missouri book. And I just love him for
24 that.

25 MR. ARNOLD: Could you address, Gary, a

1 little bit about the cost that would be associated.
2 Because you know we talked about -- you wrote the
3 numbers down. Sure this is a small collection, but
4 there is a lot of paper. This is not -- when he was
5 saying the word volunteer, you just don't go and
6 pick up a box and go through it and decide, "This is
7 mold, this is not, put this over here." It is not
8 handled that way. And if there was monies around to
9 do all of that, I mean that organization would
10 probably -- doors would still be open. Because that
11 would be an extremely costly thing to do, to go
12 through each box, each paper, and do what you just
13 suggested. If you could speak to that, because it
14 is going to have to come from here and perhaps some
15 of the other funding organizations that exist in
16 this town to get this accomplished. Then you got
17 the mold problem, and that's a whole another story.

18 MS. MCFADDEN-WEAVER: My question was
19 pertaining to that, Dr. Kremer. The offer of the
20 State Historical Society entails what? And then if
21 it is the services, then how much do those services
22 cost? Or are you willing to donate the labor and
23 expertise. Or exactly -- please.

24 DR. KREMER: That is a fair question. You
25 know, again, I did this within the last two hours.

1 MR. ARNOLD: I understand. I respect
2 that.

3 DR. KREMER: But as Richard Nixon said, "I
4 would say this about that."

5 MR. ARNOLD: Any relation?

6 DR. KREMER: I am just going to use some
7 kind of rough thumbnail. It is not -- it is time
8 consuming, but an archivist can take a pile of
9 papers that have no organization and do a couple
10 cubic feet of processing of that in a day. Again,
11 if we are talking hundreds of thousands of cubic
12 feet, that is one thing. But we are talking only
13 about roughly 500 cubic feet. And we are talking
14 about stuff that is already in archival file folders
15 and in archival boxes, which is a strength.

16 And in many cases there is an organization
17 to it. I think the organization needs to be
18 checked. The folders are not -- there is no
19 indication of what is really in them. There is kind
20 of a name on the box. It is going to take some
21 time.

22 What I can say to you though, is that I
23 would pledge the work of a couple of our employees
24 for a couple of weeks to lead this effort. And I
25 think in a couple of weeks -- you know, there is a

1 Jackson County Historical Society, there is your
2 organization. I think in a couple of weeks with
3 some careful supervision, you could make a real good
4 headway in there with a staff of people.

5 REPRESENTATIVE SHARON SANDERS BROOKS:
6 The state archivists, Dr. Kremer, and you know Ken
7 Wynne. The State has already, as of last year,
8 indicated they were willing to send individuals in
9 at no cost to do this project.

10 DR. KREMER: I am not talking about
11 charging either.

12 REPRESENTATIVE SHARON SANDERS BROOKS: We
13 are not talking about any cost, neither is the
14 federal government. There is federal money
15 available. But until the proper documents, until
16 the 501(C)3 status is clarified, until the tax
17 issue, if there is one, is clarified, you will not
18 be able to apply for this money. And we have got to
19 get the paperwork done so we can go ahead and get
20 this money, as well as the other grants that Ms.
21 Spence was talking about. But until the legal
22 paperwork is done, you are ineligible for the
23 federal monies and the state money.

24 MR. ARNOLD: When the new body comes
25 together, I hope that will be one of our first --

1 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: A lot of the
2 people say, you can only make progress when I leave.

3 MR. ARNOLD: You are absolutely right.

4 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: The sooner we get
5 me gone. Other questions for Gary. I hope folks
6 appreciate what a credentialed historian is sitting
7 to my right here in this specific area. I think, as
8 has been alluded to, and I should have done a little
9 better job of introducing Gary and his history. But
10 we are trying to continue to move forward. If there
11 are any questions about the issues here, you have as
12 preeminent expert as exists in this area, in this
13 area, sitting next to me. Two questions in a row?

14 RESPRESENTATIVE SHARON SANDERS BROOKS:
15 I'm sorry. I need to let people know. Some people
16 don't know who is in the room. Ms. Ross, will you
17 stand up, please? This is the curator of Union
18 Station. She is a nationally known museum
19 professional. I may have the title wrong, but I am
20 saying we have experts in Kansas City that have
21 experts -- we have museum experts as well as her,
22 and then the other individual at the Jazz Museum and
23 the Negro Leagues Museum. So there is expertise,
24 and individuals have already pledged their
25 willingness --

1 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: And
2 Representative Brooks, sitting to her left is
3 Rebecca Bowen, who represents the State Archives
4 and is one of the local record archivists. So I
5 know that Dr. Wynne has made that committment.

6 MS. ROSS: Actually I was the executive
7 vice-president and director of Museums for Union
8 Station Kansas City. We only have a mere 70,000
9 objects, and being challenged about our ownership on
10 a regular basis. I do understand this issue quite
11 well. And I wanted to --

12 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: We appreciate you
13 getting us off the front page today.

14 MS. ROSS: I do want to emphasize, having
15 been charged with collections over the years. I
16 have run a couple of museums, transportation museum
17 and a few other things. My director of Crittenton
18 Hall is sitting next to me. The stabilization of
19 these items is crucial. When you smell mold, you
20 got a problem, and you got to freeze it, cool it,
21 get it down and get it out. Any way that that can
22 happen as soon as possible is the best thing.

23 And the processing, if there is volunteer
24 time on the part of professionals to begin to sort
25 and organize and eventually make accessible, because

1 I think that is the whole issue here, is making this
2 information accessible, at least on an archival
3 level, that's where we need to go. So I applaud
4 what you are saying.

5 MS. DIANE BRATTON: My name is Diane
6 Bratton. I am past president of ASALH Lorenzo J.
7 Greene branch. I live in Parade Park. I have been
8 here for over 25 years. I have worked for the
9 Kansas City, Missouri School District for over 25
10 years, and I am a member of the Paseo Baptist
11 Church. And I have worked in the community here in
12 Kansas City for over 25 years in various capacities.

13 I applaud you Dr. Kremer for what you are
14 doing and what you have done and for others in the
15 room. My concern, and what I keep hearing as being
16 past president working in the community, we have
17 experts that have been to school that are indigenous
18 to Kansas City, born and raised, gone to Central
19 Lincoln High School, went on to other endeavors that
20 have expertise in those fields and still don't get
21 to be brought to the table to bring their expertise
22 to the city and the home that they love.

23 My concern is that with everything that I
24 have just heard recently, Jimmy Banks, Dr. Beasley,
25 Emanuel Cooper and others that have that expertise

1 that have gone to RISD, Rhode Island School of
2 Design, Arizona Phd that have all that expertise.
3 They don't get to bring their expertise to the table
4 and be a part of their community that they were born
5 into that they have made sacrifices to stay in
6 without being paid, and have worked diligently.

7 Emanuel Cooper has written many letters
8 and open letters to you, Mr. Nixon, an open letter.
9 I think one is dated August 30th, with basically
10 everything that has been said. A lot of his ideas
11 have been taken and used by other people and put
12 into other articles. But we have expertise. I am
13 not taking away from you Dr. Kremer or from anyone
14 else here in the room, but why can't we Ms. Weaver
15 use people in the third district?

16 MS. MCFADDEN-WEAVER: I'm with you.

17 MS. DIANE BRATTON: Why can't we use
18 people that were born and bred and still are here,
19 regardless of how they have been treated or
20 mistreated. Why can't we use them to bring this to
21 fruition? Why can't they be a part of a panel? My
22 problem is that we are listening, and we are people
23 of color, but everyone that is given the expertise
24 is not people of color. But we have people of color
25 that have that expertise. I applaud you. I am not

1 taking anything away. But this is 2006. This is
2 2006. We have been to school. We made A's. We
3 graduated at the top of the class. And that is not
4 being taken into consideration that our own
5 community has expertise and skills.

6 You know, like I said, I have been here
7 for over 25 years. I can live anywhere I want in
8 the community. I even have people at my church that
9 talk about Johnson County. It is like, I tell them,
10 I choose to live in Parade Park. That is a choice.
11 I graduated with honors from the University of
12 Kansas. We have expertise. Why can't we use
13 expertise in our community? Why can't they be
14 brought to the table? Why can't -- why do I have to
15 read the newspaper to see what has already been
16 planned and what has already been said. And it is
17 like it is a done deal. I know that a lot of
18 things, even though we are discussing here tonight,
19 it is already a done deal.

20 MS. MCFADDEN-WEAVER: If I may, Mr. Nixon,
21 if I may respond. Thank you so very much. I am in
22 total agreement with what has been said, but I would
23 be remiss at this point if I did not say on behalf
24 of Attorney General Nixon, whose office has come
25 forward and said, "We are here to facilitate and

1 support, not to dictate." Now, initially, let's --
2 it is one of those moments we get to say something
3 that other people can't say to us. So I want to get
4 to where I can see everybody. The things that we
5 have to say to each other is that, if we had talked
6 to each other first, before we went -- I know it,
7 but hold on a second. I am not talking about
8 you-all. But people that look like us went and
9 created a legal escapade, to do what we should have
10 done, called come together in the first place.
11 That's how we got where we are now.

12 And so Attorney Jay Nixon has come and
13 said, Okay, by law my authority is that I must do
14 the investigation. I need this paperwork checked.
15 The Secretary of State's paper. And the Board had
16 died out for whatever reason. Then a small group
17 came together and said, Okay, we are going to take
18 it on the chin, we will put the paperwork together,
19 because somebody has to be here in order for these
20 reports to be made or nobody can make them unless
21 somebody says, Okay, we will step up and we will be
22 responsible. Ever how many beatings we are going to
23 take for whatever happened, we will be responsible.

24 But if people had come together and gone
25 around -- because you are absolutely right. Every

1 expertise that is needed in this and most things
2 that are done in Kansas City, the expertise and the
3 talent is here to do it with. However, we keep
4 having to go out of town to do it and the people
5 that live here that pay taxes here don't ever get
6 the opportunity to do it.

7 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Let's let it stop now.

8 MS. MCFADDEN-WEAVER: I am in agreement.
9 It is stopping now. Mr. Nixon has come to the table
10 and said, "We're here to facilitate. We want to
11 help you push this energy together, keep this ball
12 rolling, and help heal something that needs to
13 happen." And as from the last couple of meetings we
14 have gotten to this place, and now in the room there
15 are two or three organizations that have expertise
16 in this area that is so critically needed that is
17 from the local area.

18 So tonight we have got to have a coming
19 together. I have already heard a commitment of two
20 weeks and two professionals, and I heard a response
21 cry from Mr. Cooper. And I think that from this,
22 just as we walked out of the other meeting, people
23 began -- when we have come-together meetings, then
24 we find out what expertise is needed while the
25 expertise is present. And so this village meeting

1 has just been linked and now it is happening. And I
2 assure you that whatever local expertise can be
3 involved needs to be involved, but please understand
4 in the first round there is no money. So we have to
5 bring those expertise and give those expertise,
6 those expertise that are needed in the first round.
7 And then some of the grant writers can write some
8 grants as soon as we become administratively
9 legitimate enough to be eligible for them. But
10 until then -- because that part is not going to
11 happen overnight.

12 Until then, we need professionals to give
13 their services so that every entity and every piece
14 that is needed can come to the table. Because as
15 long as -- everybody in the room knows what needs to
16 be done, we got the professionals together to tell
17 us what shape it is in, and we have got some
18 professionals here that can fix it. And while we
19 are getting some free help to fix it, professional
20 help to fix it, we have got to have some
21 professional grant writers that are going to write
22 some grants and put their salary in the grant and
23 get paid on the back end or not at all. That's what
24 has to happen. But there is the expertise in the
25 room to do all that we need.

1 MS. SPENCE: It took MASA to bring that
2 together. That was your responsibility was to bring
3 us together. You were supposed to have started this
4 kind of conversations, but MASA had to do it for
5 you. Now when I came to you over a year ago and
6 said, "Saundra, there is money out there, I see that
7 the archives is in trouble," we wouldn't be sitting
8 here tonight going through this.

9 MS. MCFADDEN-WEAVER: Did you apply for
10 it?

11 MS. SPENCE: You wouldn't return my call.
12 You would not return my call.

13 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: Excuse me,
14 folks. Just a second. We can make progress or we
15 can regress. I am trying as best I can to make sure
16 that everyone here who has something they want to
17 say, has the opportunity in a public forum to do
18 so. It is not possible if we all take turns
19 cross-examining those that wish to talk. Yes,
20 ma'am.

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I would like to know. I
22 am basically a rookie. I am new to Kansas City,
23 and I don't understand what is going on. I have
24 never understood people to say this happened, that
25 happened. I don't know the people. What I would

1 like to know is what really happened? How did it
2 start? There has got to be a truth. Somebody knows
3 the truth. We are required to have that truth. I
4 see bits and pieces. I hear people saying they did
5 that and they did that. Somewhere along the line,
6 me being a part of a 501(C)3 organization, I
7 understand what the guidelines are. We follow them
8 impeccably. And I am understanding why this has
9 been a problem from day one. And I know that most
10 times people of color, they don't come together
11 until it is too late, and somebody else has to take
12 over. We have got all this expertise in the world.
13 Why haven't you done something about it? You've got
14 too much talent, education, people who really care
15 about it. Just like you don't have a jazz station
16 here. I know I am digressing.

17 But listen, you people are supposed to run
18 this city with everything that you've got. So we
19 need to know what is going on, so we can go move
20 forward. It is very, very critical to keep those
21 documents, get them where they belong. I don't care
22 who takes care of them, as long as they come back to
23 this community. So let's get down to the bottom
24 line. Let's share with people who don't know what
25 is going on. Let's not have to read the newspaper,

1 had been addressed about the condition of the
2 archives, and I am sharing this publicly. The
3 leadership said, Let it die. I was the one that
4 brought it to the attention of the leadership
5 directly. Okay. So if you want to know something,
6 then let's ask some of the people that know what
7 happened, what is happening, what continues to
8 happen today. We haven't gotten to the real in
9 reference to the Black Archives, period. So
10 something happened to it. It just didn't dig a hole
11 in the ground and stop. Okay. But we don't have an
12 archives today doing what the mission of the
13 archives was, in reference to preserving the history
14 of African Americans particularly, not just in
15 Kansas City, but within the five-state region,
16 period. So something has happened.

17 So here again is another opportunity to do
18 something to resurrect the archives. So, Dr.
19 Kremer. I am acquainted with Dr. Kremer. Dr.
20 Holland as well, who also are students of Dr.
21 Lorenzo Greene. So when we talk about keeping
22 something close in the community, we are talking
23 about the Lorenzo Greene branch of the African
24 American -- the ASALH, the Association of African
25 American Life and History, then we were talking

1 to inability, I think is tragic. Okay. It needs to
2 be housed right here in the community. Everything
3 you are talking about, but we are not getting to the
4 crux of the issue. There are some other issues too
5 which will probably emerge. But today and right
6 now, we need to move forward. We need to advance
7 the efforts, the issues, the mission of the Black
8 Archives. There doesn't have to be consternation,
9 folks just have to get on track and move forward.
10 It is real simple. It is easy. It is not
11 complicated.

12 REPRESENTATIVE SHARON SANDERS BROOKS:

13 We need to have some truth in here. We need to have
14 some truth in here. There was a meeting called over
15 a year and a half ago after Steve Pence's article
16 appeared in the Kansas City Star indicating the
17 archives had closed. The meeting was at the Urban
18 League. In the room were various individuals from
19 organizations, the Urban League, the NAACP, Mrs.
20 Peterson, Mark Boland, myself, other elected
21 officials. And we waited. I don't remember the
22 exact date, but I do remember it was the day that
23 Michael Jackson was acquitted, because while we were
24 waiting for a representative from the archives to
25 show up, the television was on. And we waited and

1 we watched that procedure. No one from the Black
2 Archives showed up for that meeting. Internal
3 private meeting. That's what it was supposed to be.

4 There were some other people in the room,
5 and I can't remember all the names. But after no
6 one from the Black Archives showed up, a letter was
7 sent by Representative Jonas Hughes to all African
8 American City Council members and all African
9 American members of the General Assembly. If I may,
10 I would like to read this for the record.

11 It was sent to the Executive Director of
12 the Archives. And it states, "Dear Ms. Ross: I
13 have been contacted by a number of concerned
14 individuals in the community who would like to help
15 the Archives. On behalf of these concerned
16 individuals who are willing to set aside personal
17 time to work for a cause they believe in, I am
18 respectfully requesting that you contact me to set
19 up a meeting to discuss a plan to help the Black
20 Archives through the current situation.

21 The Board of the Black Archives is an
22 integral part in making the Archives successful.
23 You all are very important in the planning process,
24 and we would like to be involved. It is very
25 important that we take action now before the

1 situation deteriorates even more. It is our hope in
2 setting up this meeting that we can brainstorm and
3 discuss ideas on how we can keep the Black Archives
4 open. Thank you for your time and your willingness
5 to work with others. If you have any questions,
6 feel free to contact me at my home and this number.
7 I also have an e-mail address," which he included.
8 "Again, thank you. And I look forward to hearing
9 from you all very soon. Sincerely, Representative
10 Leonard Jonas Hughes." This is dated August the
11 3rd, 2005.

12 MR. ARNOLD: Let me respond to that.

13 REPRESENTATIVE SHARON SANDERS BROOKS:
14 Let me finish.

15 MR. ARNOLD: Let me respond to that,
16 because that's about my sister. I want to respond
17 to that. She was at home in the dark with no
18 lights. With no lights in her home.

19 MS. MCFADDEN-WEAVER: Let her finish.

20 REPRESENTATIVE SHARON SANDERS BROOKS: I
21 personally, after we did not get a response, I
22 personally went to three board members and spoke to
23 them and asked, When can we meet? One board member
24 said the board members were on vacation. And I
25 asked, When could we meet? And sadly to this day we

1 have never been able to sit down privately and
2 meet. I have had a long meeting with one of the
3 current board members, Mr. Watkins. Mr. Arnold, we
4 have spoken --

5 MR. ARNOLD: Right.

6 RESPRESENTATIVE SHARON SANDERS BROOKS: --
7 about meeting, but we have not done it. So please,
8 do not put out misinformation to this community that
9 someone suddenly jumped up and went to the Attorney
10 General. I am that person that contacted him,
11 because after over a year and a half we were unable
12 to come together, and I knew the federal money was
13 available. First time new money, over \$800,000,
14 that because the paperwork wasn't appropriate, we in
15 this community were denied the opportunity to apply
16 for. New federal money that the African American
17 Museum Associations had lobbied on behalf of. New
18 money. Nor are we eligible for the conservation
19 money. Maximum grant for institutions \$150,000. So
20 that's some of the truth where we are from 2005
21 onward. I thank you.

22 MR. ARNOLD: I would like Mr. Nixon and
23 everybody to know that we are not at odds. I know
24 it may seem like that at times, but this is a family
25 coming together. When you come together you have to

1 settle things a little bit. And they are getting
2 settled and I like that. She is correct to an
3 extent, that the Board and the group that requested
4 the meet did not meet. But that organization had
5 suffered for two years prior to that using their own
6 monies. I probably got over 5,000 hours of my own
7 in it. My sister's lights were off behind this.
8 She could not come to the meeting. She was that
9 embarrassed. That is why she is not here now. And
10 at the last one, she was so embarrassed. She
11 brought us some money last week to pay her rent.
12 Things got really out of control. I applauded you,
13 honey, for bringing it to the Attorney General's
14 attention, because it needed that kind of forum.

15 Ma'am, they could not come in there with
16 other people, because when we met with the attorney
17 general people, they said nobody better not touch a
18 thing. As a matter of fact, I took the mail like
19 this, and they found me to make sure that that's all
20 I had was mail. So those things had to happen to
21 bring this community together.

22 Now, I think it is time for us, this group
23 and any other group, we all come together and that's
24 what I was prefacing up here when I first spoke, so
25 that we can do what we need to do. There are other

1 please. If I could. Are there any other questions
2 for the state historian, Executive Director of the
3 State Historical Society, Mr. Kremer. If not, I
4 think he would love to step away from here. He is
5 not getting paid for any of this. Are there any
6 specific questions for the State Historical
7 Society's Executive Director, Gary Kremer. If so,
8 quickly get to those. We want to move on to the
9 next portion of this meeting.

10 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I do have a question for
11 Dr. Kremer. You mentioned as one of the problems or
12 one of the challenges was on ownership. Where does
13 that legal organization, being that we don't
14 necessarily own some of those pieces and there is
15 mold and they are being damaged. Where does that
16 legal liability -- I don't know if you would answer
17 that or the Attorney General.

18 DR. KREMER: I'm not saying that there
19 isn't. But when I asked the question, "What is the
20 history of ownership of these documents?" The
21 response was that, we haven't really been collecting
22 that since 1993. And some of that prior to that is
23 just oral.

24 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Who hasn't been
25 collecting, Dr. Kremer? Who hasn't been collecting

1 since 1993? That is incorrect.

2 DR. KREMER: All I know is what I am
3 told. And I am saying, if I was charged with the
4 burden or the responsibility or the opportunity --
5 by the way, I am not looking for more work,
6 understand that. But what I would do is try to
7 first of all establish the paper trail of ownership
8 of those documents. It may well be there. It may
9 be in one of those file cabinets. If it isn't, I
10 would try to solidify it.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you very much. I
12 would like to know, can the Black Archives, can it
13 be innovative with new ideas, with fresh young
14 minds? Can that information be preserved and
15 documented and photographed and put on video where
16 it can be demonstrated on the Worldwide Web locally,
17 nationally, and international? Can something like
18 that be done?

19 DR. KREMER: Sure. Anything can be done
20 with time and money. But the thing that I would
21 caution you, is that digitizing records or
22 photographs is not a preservation technique. It is
23 a means of making that material accessible, but it
24 doesn't preserve it. The material needs to be
25 treated now or it is not going to be there for

1 digitalization in a few years.

2 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: Are there any
3 other quick questions?

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I have one.

5 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: There are three
6 questions here. She is first. She has been
7 waiting.

8 MS. STEPHANIE BLYE: My name is Stephanie
9 Blye. If there is money problems, why don't you
10 have like a historic theater or movie show or
11 something like that somewhere in the building. That
12 will attract everybody in to pay some kind of money
13 to help aid to the building. Does that sound like a
14 good idea?

15 DR. KREMER: Let me interject something
16 that just occurred to me in looking at the
17 architects. I know the plans are underway and so
18 forth. But it is critical for the newly organized
19 governing board to decide some things that are going
20 to dictate what is going to happen with the
21 building. You know, I was involved in the building
22 of the Missouri State Archives a decade ago. We
23 made lots of decisions that went -- policy decisions
24 that dictated the kind of building we were going to
25 build. If you decide, for example, you don't want a

1 museum, and I'm not suggesting you should, then you
2 don't need museum space. If you decide that you
3 want to focus on different kinds of collections, you
4 want the space to accommodate those collections. So
5 these guys can't really get their work going
6 legitimately until a decision is made about focus
7 and scope and vision.

8 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: Three more
9 questions for the historian and then we will move
10 on. Now we have four.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I have a question. The
12 different things that are trying to be done right
13 now. When she was telling us about the different
14 grants and what have you that you get, and that we
15 don't meet the qualifications to get the grants.
16 What amount of funds and what do we need to do in
17 order to get the grants in order to move forward?
18 And as far as what the other lady was saying over
19 there about raising funds to get to that level.
20 This is a large endeavor, and so instead of thinking
21 small, you need to think large. You need to think
22 like a telethon or like they did that march, that
23 Mile Walk, different things like that that will
24 produce large funds. Not 100 to 500 dollars, we are
25 talking about thousands of dollars is what is needed

1 right now to get us where we need to be.

2 DR. KREMER: Let me make two quick points
3 in response to that. One is, you cannot build an
4 institution on grant money. Don't count on grants
5 to fix this problem. Number two, grant money
6 doesn't come to an unstable institution. The first
7 thing you need to do is establish stability and
8 establish a track record of confidence. Because
9 nobody is going to give you money, and frankly,
10 nobody is going to give you more artifacts or papers
11 unless you demonstrate that. But please don't think
12 that grant money is the answer. It can help, but it
13 is not to fix it all.

14 MR. WILLIAMS: Real quickly. I am Archie
15 Williams again. My statement, I think there has
16 been a lot of healthy healing taking place tonight.
17 A lot of conversations that we can build on. But
18 what I would like to leave here with tonight is an
19 organized plan on what we are doing immediately to
20 preserve the documents, because without that all
21 other conversations become moot.

22 MS. OLIVIA SMITH: Good evening. My name
23 is Olivia Smith. I am a long term resident, born
24 and raised here. I have worked for the City of
25 Kansas City for two years as an accountant. I am

1 now a freelance accountant and I have worked with
2 non-profit funding. I also work with some paper
3 conservationists that were very enthused about what
4 the Black Archives is doing and is willing to work
5 with the archives to do the paper conservation. I
6 am more concerned about the condition of the pieces
7 and what conservation efforts are being done right
8 now to keep them in order.

9 There are two small assessment programs
10 that are out here, but it is a conservation
11 assessment program, general survey for long-term
12 preservation, and it is funded through Heritage
13 Preservation. I have a website for that. Then
14 there is also the Museum Assessment Program through
15 American Association of Museums. And they also do
16 assessments and they give you what could be done to
17 preserve the pieces, what is necessary,
18 environments and all of that information. So that
19 you actually know how to preserve the pieces in
20 wherever you decide to do that. I just wanted to
21 share that with you.

22 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: One more
23 question. One more question back here. She has
24 been waiting. Then we'll let Gary.

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Mine is not a

1 question. Mine is a suggestion. Maybe some of the
2 solutions. I was born and raised in Kansas City,
3 was in the civil rights movement in Kansas City. I
4 have a lot of history that I know. My suggestion
5 would be is to go back to the roots that we used to
6 do a long time ago. Get your churches involved. If
7 every church, both sides of the river donated \$100,
8 you would have the money that you would need in
9 order to keep our history in our community and it
10 open. The other thing is, I don't think Ms.
11 Peterson should be ignored, because she is the wife
12 of the person who was running the Black Archives,
13 and she is a hell of a grant writer.

14 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: I want to thank
15 Gary for coming this evening. He will be available
16 for a few minutes.

17 As we have moved through the last few
18 weeks, it has become obviously and stunningly
19 apparent to me that there is in fact one name that
20 is the hot knife through butter, and that is Horace
21 Peterson. His wife and confidant is here with us
22 this evening and has agreed to help us in this
23 process of getting -- I have been in contact, as has
24 our office on numerous occasions, with Barbara
25 Peterson who has agreed to chair an advisory

1 committee.

2 Let me go through a process that I think
3 will lead us to moving forward. It is our thought,
4 after looking at this, that the appointment of an
5 interim advisory committee that would be responsible
6 for accepting applications from people who want to
7 serve on the board, and then processing those.
8 Those applications all being public, that process
9 being public, and moving us forward here to get to a
10 point where this Board could be reconstituted in a
11 way that reflects directly to community interests'
12 involvement that is necessary to move forward is the
13 key.

14 And in that, with meeting and talking with
15 folks, I am very happy that Ms. Peterson has agreed
16 to chair that committee. The process that I want to
17 talk about for a few moments tonight and hopefully
18 move forward on, is the process of the paper that is
19 out here. Anyone and everyone who wants to apply to
20 be on the Board, to help us reconstitute that Board,
21 to get the long arm of the law out of town and get
22 the town back in charge of itself, is very much
23 appreciated.

24 I want to go through some folks that have
25 agreed to help us in this process, and help us

1 through this process and go through a couple of time
2 lines of that, and then take any questions or
3 thoughts folks might have about where we should go
4 from here after that.

5 My original thought is that what we will
6 do is we will allow anyone who wants to, to apply to
7 be on the Board. Those applications that are here
8 must be completed, filled out and postmarked by
9 September 21, as we are on a pretty tight time frame
10 to get the board reconstituted. So anyone and
11 everybody here, you can take one, you can take three
12 of them. We will post on our website. We will send
13 one to everyone who is registered at this meeting
14 and the last meeting. Anyone who wants copies of
15 them, we will give them to you. And everyone that
16 wants to make that application in their own way can
17 do so.

18 We will be working then to get those, once
19 they are in the mail by September 21st, the thought
20 would be that by the 25th all of those would be in
21 our possession. And an advisory committee headed by
22 Ms. Peterson, and it also would include 12, 13, I am
23 losing my count here of folks that have agreed to
24 step forward. If others want to be involved, then
25 so be it. Councilwoman Sandra McFadden-Weaver has

1 agreed to help us in this process, as has
2 Commissioner William Washington, Ajami Webster,
3 Senator Vaughn Wilson, Lonnie Powell, Thomas
4 Phillips, Ms. Peterson to chair. Althea Moses, Gary
5 Kremer, Mabel Hughes, Pearl Fame, Dick Dyson from
6 Carter Broadcast, former Councilwoman Carol Coe,
7 and Crosby Kemper the Third, to assist in this
8 process. It is our thought that that initial group
9 of folks to receive these -- Sharon Sanders Brooks
10 is on there. It is in all caps too. The first one
11 to call me.

12 But our thought is that that is kind of
13 the group that could be the repository of these
14 applications and then help us make the
15 recommendations necessary. I think we are on a
16 relatively tight time frame here folks. A lot of
17 the things that everybody has talked about are
18 really step two, three, four down the line. All of
19 those will come about. The process we outlined
20 here, and I just can't tell you how much I
21 appreciate Ms. Peterson's willingness to get in here
22 and help us row and get this done.

23 I think if we can get the people who want
24 to be involved, get those applications in by the
25 21st. I think the Committee would meet a week or so

1 after that. I think with the support of our office,
2 with Linda and the other folks in our office here,
3 be prepared to meet in that first week of September,
4 first week of October.

5 Once again, this is going to be a process
6 in which the entire process will be transparent. We
7 are going to let everybody see what is going on. We
8 just want to get to the finish line here. And that
9 finish line is getting a board with 15 people on it
10 that have the power to move this thing forward.
11 Until we get that done -- I hate to talk like a
12 lawyer here, but until we have got a board that has
13 the power to send in the papers and sign the stuff
14 and get the stuff done, none of the things that we
15 have talked about, none of the great ideas tonight
16 will actually happen. They just won't. Yes, sir.

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I just want to know. It
18 sounded like from Dr. Kremer's testimony that the
19 situation with the actual papers, the actual
20 collection is dire. I just want to know what is
21 going to happen in the next 30 -- I heard about air
22 conditioners and dehumidifiers and electricity being
23 off. What about the documents which are dire?
24 Without the documents or the documents in bad shape,
25 we don't have a collection. So what is going to

1 happen while all this going on behind the scenes.
2 What is going to happen in the next 30 to 45 days to
3 secure the value, to secure the goal, and then who
4 is accountable for it so we can go back to it.

5 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: Right now it is
6 going to be locked up. They are going to work on it
7 as fast as they can to do the things. The
8 Councilwoman has agreed, Mr. Arnold has agreed to
9 lock it up and keep it safe. Keep it locked up.
10 And the faster this process goes to reconstitute the
11 board, the more likely it is we can get to a safer
12 place.

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: One question I have.
14 That is only because of Dr. Kremer's testimony. It
15 sounded like to me that it was dire. He said it is
16 not yesterday, not -- I mean today we get to get
17 that done. Is that something that is just going to
18 sit on the side until it is constituted?

19 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: We are going to
20 be very quick here, but I want to hear from local
21 councilwoman.

22 MS. MCFADDEN-WEAVER: Thank you, Mr.
23 Nixon. And thank you for the question. We have
24 kind of had some meetings during the meeting, so
25 that we can maybe answer a piece of that question,

1 because it is dire. What we are endeavoring to do
2 right now is not just lock up those documents, but
3 to get the professionals in this room together,
4 hopefully immediately after this gathering, because
5 we have enough commitments made that the beginning
6 of cleaning out that mold, saving those documents
7 and restoring them in a preserved way, or better
8 preserved way, under the supervision of
9 professionals, can be done. So it is our endeavor
10 to do that in these 30 days while we are working.

11 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: Very quickly.
12 Yes.

13 MR. TOLBERT: Richard Tolbert. I have
14 tried to listen very carefully tonight, and it
15 sounds like there are at least two camps here
16 tonight. The question I have is, what is the
17 relationship between the three member board, two of
18 which are here tonight, and the advisory board? I
19 guess the real question I am trying to ask, if the
20 recommendations for board members of the advisory
21 board, to the three member board are not acceptable
22 to the three member board, then what happens?

23 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: As I have said a
24 number of times. What we are going to do is we are
25 going to try to get the 15. That's what the bylaws

1 allow. I have appointed an advisory committee
2 tonight headed by Ms. Peterson that is empowered
3 with the folks that I have sent here to receive the
4 applications to fill the other 12 positions. The
5 sooner we get that process going, the sooner that
6 board will have those full twelve positions and this
7 community will be in a position to take control once
8 again of this and move forward.

9 MR. TOLBERT: Is it up to the three member
10 board to accept those other board members?

11 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: No, it is not.

12 MR. TOLBERT: Who is it up to?

13 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: I will accept the
14 advice of these folks. As I said before, my entire
15 effort tonight is to avoid litigation. My entire
16 effort is to avoid any sort of --

17 MR. TOLBERT: Just be clear. You are
18 making it a requirement then that that three member
19 board become a 15 member board?

20 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: No, the bylaws
21 of the organization right now call for a 15 member
22 board.

23 MR. TOLBERT: Okay. But the purpose of
24 the advisory board is to fill up the three member
25 board?

1 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: No, it is to fill
2 up the 15 member board.

3 MR. TOLBERT: Okay. But you are making
4 that a requirement, aren't you, Mr. Attorney
5 General?

6 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: I am saying we
7 got to get to 15. This is the process to get to
8 15. And Ms. Peterson will chair a committee of this
9 group to accept applications from anyone that wants
10 to, move to a process as quickly as we can to make
11 sure that board is fully constituted. Give them
12 the legal support from our office that is necessary
13 to file the paperwork and move forward. Turn this
14 ship back to this community. Give them the
15 opportunity to move forward. Have the City and
16 their great representatives move to this building
17 and have us continue to allow this community to move
18 forward.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Attorney General
20 Nixon. We have a meeting here, and we had one in
21 Gem Theatre. Then inevitably the next day, or like
22 today, for instance, there is an article that comes
23 out in the Kansas City Star in regards to the Public
24 Library interests in the Black Archives. But that
25 is never mentioned in these meetings. Can you tell

1 me what is the connection and why are these two
2 things being kept separate and reported at two
3 different times?

4 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: I think that it
5 is interesting. I think that the Public Library is
6 part of the city, and its board is very interested
7 in maintaining this -- being helpful in whatever
8 role they can. I think that Mr. Kemper and other
9 folks very involved in that want to be helpful in
10 whatever way they can. I have not spent any great
11 deal of my time talking to them about what their
12 vision is. That is not my job. My job is to make
13 sure that we are reconstituted in a quick fashion.
14 That the paperwork is legal, and that this community
15 is reflecting -- is represented by that board. Yes,
16 sir.

17 MR. KEMPER: I am Crosby Kemper, the
18 Director of the Public Library. I would be happy to
19 answer that question. We just offered help. We are
20 happy to help in any way that the community wants
21 it, the reconstituted board wants us to help. We
22 are here. We do reference services. We do archival
23 management.

24 What Dr. Kremer talked about in terms of
25 the money, what the archives needs is operating

1 money. It needs somebody to help operate it. We
2 have offered help. We don't want to own it. We
3 don't want to control it. We believe in preserving
4 the heritage of all aspects of the community,
5 including the plurality of people in our district
6 who are African American, especially. So we are
7 offering help. We are not asking to control
8 anything. We are offering help.

9 ATTORNEY GENERAL NIXON: Barbara, is there
10 anything that you would like to add? One thing I
11 promised Mrs. Peterson, that is anything that she
12 was involved with with the Missouri Attorney
13 General's Office would be on time and on budget. I
14 just want to tell you all how much we appreciate how
15 much we have gotten done now in five hours of work.
16 Five hours of public listening and five hours of
17 public healing.

18 It is extremely important that the
19 seriousness and respect which has been shown to the
20 fellow citizens in the last two sessions that we
21 have had continue during this process of
22 reconstituting this board. I am confident that Ms.
23 Peterson and her committee are going to work hard to
24 make sure that they make recommendations in which
25 there is a board that reflects both the history and

1 the future of this community. And when they do so,
2 I think they will do so in a fashion that is open
3 and helpful to all of us.

4 So with that -- we have all the documents
5 back there if everyone wants to apply. We will make
6 all of this stuff public. Each one of you that were
7 here tonight that gave us your address will receive
8 a letter from us going through what we said tonight,
9 what the process is and have all the names and
10 addresses of all the contacts. Everything that was
11 here tonight and said tonight will be on our web
12 page as soon as this man's fingers are rested. And
13 throughout this process we are going to, within the
14 next few short weeks, try to process this
15 information and return power from whence it came,
16 back to the people of Kansas City. Thank you and
17 that's the end of tonight's meeting.

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